

3. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 2, wherein the peripheral structure is a rigid frame on which the elastically deformable means are stretched between two roughly opposite points.

4. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 3, wherein the:

- peripheral structure comprises at least one ring having an inside diameter D and a center C,
- elastically deformable means are elastic bands attached in groups of two juxtaposed elastic bands and fixed to the ring at their diametrically opposed ends.

5. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 4, wherein the closure member is a sleeve made of flexible material having a diameter D and a length of at least twice this diameter, each end of the sleeve passes through each pair of elastic bands in the center C of the ring, where the sleeve is contracted radially in the closed rest state of the device, or defines a single through opening for the object in the open state of the device, in which state the elastic bands are deformed radially by the passage of said object.

6. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 5, wherein one end of the sleeve is fixed peripherally to an outer face of a first ring and the other end of said sleeve is fixed peripherally to an opposite outer face of a second ring identical to the first ring, the sleeve being contracted radially in a middle zone between each pair of elastic bands, the elastic bands being attached to the first or second rings which are themselves fixed to each other via their inner faces.

7. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first and second

rings are offset angularly with respect to each other while twisting the sleeve axially, this angular offset being preferably approximately 90°.

8. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 6, wherein the first and second rings are held together by adhesive bonding or by stitching.

9. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 5, wherein the sleeve is made of fabric.

10. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 5, wherein the elastic bands are eight in number and juxtaposed and attached in pairs distributed in such a way as to pass through the center of their supporting ring so as to form in the supporting ring eight essentially identical sectors.

11. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 5, wherein the elastic bands are under tension on their supporting ring in the closed state of the device.

12. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 1, wherein its shape is that of a straight or curved cylinder and that it possesses a closure device at each end.

13. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 1, wherein it includes at least a part made of a transparent material.

14. (Amended) The container as claimed in claim 1, wherein the container is made of materials suitable for weightless conditions.